

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /093 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6204

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0916

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER CRITICIZES PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: CAPE TOWN 0914

JUNE 6 EDITION OF DIE BURGER, CAPE TOWN AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER AND MOUTHPIECE OF NATIONAL PARTY IN CAPE PROVINCE, CARRIED LEAD EDITORIAL STRONGLY CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT CARTER. ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT BASIS FOR NEW U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA IS CARTER'S GUILT FEELINGS FOR NOT ACTING SOONER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH. COMPLETE TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: PRESIDENT CARTER'S FEELING OF GUILT.
IT IS NO NEW IDEA THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS SERVING AS SCAPE-
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GOAT TO THE WORLD, AND THEN ESPECIALLY THE WESTERN WORLD. IT DEFINITELY SEEMS AS IF IMPORTANT SECTIONS OF SOME NATIONS ARE HAVING FEELINGS OF GUILT, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, OF WHICH THEY ARE TRYING TO RID THEMSELVES BY ACTING AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA--OR, STATED MORE ACCURATELY: AGAINST A PHANTOM OF SOUTH AFRICA WHICH THEY THEMSELVES HAVE HELPED TO CREATE.

IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, WHETHER ANYONE HAS SHOWN IT SO OPENLY AS THE MAN WHO IS NOW THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. IT HAPPENED IN THE COURSE OF A SENSATIONAL INTERVIEW WITH THE MAGAZINE PLAYBOY LAST YEAR. AT THE TIME HE SAID OTHER THINGS WHICH ENJOYED SO MUCH ATTENTION THAT NOT ENOUGH NOTICE WAS TAKEN OF WHAT HE HAD TO SAY ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA.

IT HAS NOW BEEN RECALLED BY THE WASHINGTON POST. IT IS REMARKABLE THAT IT HAD TO BE THIS VERY NEWSPAPER. THE WASHINGTON POST IS ONE OF THE MOST LEADING LIBERAL NEWSPAPERS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND ONE WOULD EXPECT IT TO SUPPORT RATHER THAN CRITICIZE PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS POLICY IN GENERAL.

THE ANDY YOUNG CIRCUS AND THE PRESIDENT'S CONTINUAL FAILURE TO CALL THE MAN TO ORDER, AS ALSO THE CARTER POLICY FOR AFRICA, HAS HOWEVER BECOME TOO MUCH FOR THE NEWSPAPER. IT HAS EXPRESSED ITSELF ON THIS MATTER IN A WAY WHICH CAN HARDLY BE BETTERED.

THE PAPER RECOLLECTED WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER MENTIONED IN THIS INTERVIEW: THAT HE WAS HAVING A FEELING OF GUILT BECAUSE HE HAD DELAYED SO LONG BEFORE RESISTING THE RACIAL INJUSTICE IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH (FROM WHERE HE HAILS) AND THAT IT MADE HIM DECIDE TO "BEGIN A CRUSADE FOR BLACK MAJORITY GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA."

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IT IS AN ALARMING IDEA THAT A MAN IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITION CAN EVEN CONSIDER SUCH A THING, LET ALONE--AS NOW APPEARS--BASE HIS POLICY ON IT. QUITE RIGHTLY THE WASHINGTON POST EXPRESSED ITSELF STRONGLY AGAINST THE IDEA THAT POLICY SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY FEELINGS OF GUILT. HOWEVER, THE MATTER CAN BE CARRIED STILL FURTHER.

THE QUESTION COULD ALSO BE ASKED WHAT RIGHT ANY PERSON HAS TO TRY TO RID HIMSELF OF HIS OWN, PERSONAL GUILTY FEELING AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS. AND EVEN WHAT REAL VALUE SUCH GUILTY FEELINGS AND SUCH PENANCE COULD HAVE.

APART FROM THIS WE FEEL PRESIDENT CARTER'S PLANNED ACTION IN THE SOUTH OF AFRICA COULD GIVE HIM CAUSE OFR GREATER FEELINGS OF GUILT THAN THAT WHICH HIS FAILURE TO ACT IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH HAD HELPED TO CREATE. HE HAS CHOSEN AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS COURSE--DANGEROUS ALSO TO HIS OWN COUNTRY--WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD TO THE FACTUAL SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND APPARENTLY

ALSO IN OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA. HE AND HIS ADVISERS
CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY DECIDED AND
DO NOT WISH TO BE CONFUSED BY THE FACTS. FACTS, HOWEVER,
SOMEHOW HAVE A WAY OF MAKING THEMSELVES FELT SOONER OR LATER.
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